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March 24, 2020

VIA ECF

The Honorable Sarah Netburn
United States Magistrate Judge
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square, Room 430
New York, NY 10007

**Re: *In Re: Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, 03-MDL-1570*
(S.D.N.Y.) (GBD) (SN)**
Estate of John P. O'Neill, Sr. v. Al Baraka Inv. & Dev. Corp., 04-CV-1923
(S.D.N.Y.) (GBD) (SN)

Dear Judge Netburn:

In accordance with this Court’s Individual Practices in Civil Cases (p. 4) and mindful of this Court’s time, Defendants Dubai Islamic Bank (“DIB”), International Islamic Relief Organization, Yassin Kadi, Muslim World League, and World Assembly of Muslim Youth (collectively, “O’Neill Defendants”) jointly move for leave to file a short sur-reply, not to exceed five pages, to address points newly raised in the ten-page Reply Memorandum of Law in support of the O’Neill Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification.¹ MDL ECF 6065 (“Reply”).

We seek such leave because the O’Neill Plaintiffs in their opening brief did not provide in any detail their arguments on the issues of predominance and superiority. ECF 5676 at 18 (one page discussing predominance issues in this case, among discussion of “common cause or disaster” case law generally); *id.* at 23-25 (two and a half pages briefly analyzing superiority factors). Instead, the O’Neill Defendants did not see Plaintiffs’ full arguments on these issues until Plaintiffs served their Reply. In particular, Plaintiffs argue in Reply for the first time that it was the O’Neill Defendants who delayed in raising issues, and imply that this supposed delay somehow is dispositive of the class-certification issue. Reply 1, 3-4. The O’Neill Plaintiffs also suggest in their Reply that a common harm is the key to the predominance inquiry. *Id.* at 1, 3-5. In addition, the O’Neill Plaintiffs now try to attack the O’Neill Defendants’ position by pointing to the relative simplicity of class discovery. *Id.* at 4, 9.

¹ Counsel for DIB (on behalf of the O’Neill Defendants) conferred with counsel for the O’Neill Plaintiffs prior to filing this motion. Counsel for the O’Neill Plaintiffs indicated that they opposed this motion, and will be filing a response to this motion within 24 hours.

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In the proposed sur-reply brief, the *O'Neill* Defendants would briefly address Plaintiffs' primary arguments in support of class certification. That is "particularly" appropriate cause for allowing the filing of a sur-reply. *E.g., Am. S.S. Owners Mut. Prot. & Indem. Ass'n, Inc. v. Am. Boat Co., LLC*, 2012 WL 32352, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 6, 2012) ("[C]ourts have broad discretion to consider arguments in a sur-reply. This is particularly so when new arguments are put forth in a reply brief." (citation and internal quotation marks omitted) (alteration in original)).

Moreover, the opportunity to provide argument in a sur-reply has potentially increased importance given disruptions as a result of COVID-19. See S.D.N.Y. Mem. on COVID-19 Protocols (Mar. 20, 2020) (noting that "[i]n-court appearances will be limited strictly to Emergency Matters" for civil matters). If the Court decides to rule on class certification without oral argument, the sur-reply hopefully will assist the Court in sorting through the arguments of the parties.

The *O'Neill* Defendants thus respectfully request that this Court grant them leave to file a short sur-reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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